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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS: HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 16 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit the following information in response to the request for assistance to Somalia made by His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, in his dual capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for emergency humanitarian assistance to the Somali people.

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa was approached by Mr. Mahomed Farid Choonara, Director of the South African branch of the African Muslim Agency, for assistance in transporting humanitarian aid to Somali refugees in northern Kenya. Mr. Choonara was introduced to the Department by former House of Delegates Cabinet Minister, Mr. Boetie Abramjee, who supported their project.

The African Muslim Agency was founded in 1978 in Kuwait by Dr. Abdur Rahman Al-Sumait, who is also the Secretary-General of the Agency. The Agency has established offices in 34 African countries with the aim of providing humanitarian aid where needed.

The African Muslim Agency collected food and medicine from the Muslim community in South Africa which they planned to distribute through representatives of the Agency operating in refugee camps in Kenya. They

requested assistance from the Department of Foreign Affairs in obtaining aircraft to transport supplies to Wajir, in northern Kenya, from which the relief effort is being coordinated.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, in response to the request and in conjunction with the South African Air Force, has sent two Hercules C130's to Wajir to deliver 30 tonnes of food and medicine.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 87 (b) and 96 (c), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative